

**HENRY F. CLAGGETT.**

A Successful Business Man—A Steady Rise  
—Plasterer—Clerk Proprietor of a Large  
Mercantile Business.

The subject of this sketch was born in Harnsville, Md., August 4, 1860, just at the outbreak of the great war. Henry Claggett as a boy, reaching so early for something higher, attended regularly the public schools where he received his early and fundamental training. It has never been his lot to attend any other school, save the school of experience, where he has proven a faithful student. Early in his life he began to struggle for himself and began as an apprentice at the plasterer's trade. He soon mastered the trade and began to contract for himself. Mr. Claggett made quite a success of this work for a



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number of years, obtaining and executing some of the most important work in his little city.

In the year 1892, Mr. Claggett received an appointment in the railway service which position he held for one year when he was given a position with the Prudential Insurance Company of Newark, N. J. Mr. Claggett filled this place indeed most creditably to himself and the company until 1897, when he decided to embark in the mercantile world. And here is where he has succeeded wonderfully. Starting two years ago with a very small stock of groceries in Newark, to day he owns one of the largest houses conducted by colored people in the state. He has a large trade, both permanent and transitory, the latter being nearly exclusively among the white people of his neighborhood. Mr. Claggett keeps on hand the very best that can be had. His place is neatly kept; polite clerks are in evidence and one can not tell that one is in a colored place of business, unless one asks the question.

Mr. Claggett has his delivery wagon and plenty of assistance. His wife is of invaluable service to him. Mrs. Claggett is personally interested in the business and can be found there any time, perfectly at home behind the counter or at the books. Mr. Claggett deserves much commendation for his success, since it is very hard for a Negro to get a footing in the commercial world now-a-days. His success has been a natural growth, not spasmodic, but a continually rise, according to the American standard. His achievement only bears out the statement, time honored as it is, that, "The fittest will survive."

**Orange Blossoms.**

An attractive home wedding took place at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Peebles, 1014 D street, southeast, Thursday evening, October 18, when their daughter Mamie Evelyn, was united in marriage to the Rev. Robert U. S. Thomas of Antigua, B. W. I.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Walter H. Brooks of the 19th St. Baptist church, assisted by the Rev. M. U. Clair and was witnessed by a large number of friends. The bride was most becomingly attired in gray broadcloth, trimmed with white satin and point applique and carried a shower bouquet of bride roses. She entered the room with her father and was preceded by her little sister Kathieen, who acted as flower girl.

The house was beautifully decorated with cosmos blooms and palms. Miss Grace Shimm presided at the piano. The presents were beautiful and numerous. Shortly after the ceremony the Rev. and Mrs. Thomas were accompanied to the depot by a large number of friends where they took the train for Jacksonville, Fla., amid a shower of rice and good wishes. The groom has recently been appointed Professor of Science in Cookman Institute.

**AFRO-AMERICANS IN BUSINESS.**

The idea of Self Preservation is Growing  
Among the Thriving Virginians—Notes.

Charlottesville, Va., Special.—The Central Relief Association is making great progress under the management of Mr. Jno. L. Hayes, the president. Quite a large Juvenile Department has been added. Among the elevating features of the Juvenile Department is free musical training by Mrs. M. O. Kelser. This organization bids fair to be eminently successful, and the president, Mr. Hayes, deserves great credit for his untiring efforts in the work. The Young Men's Christian Association is beginning to make itself again felt for good in this city. The work which was partly stopped on account of the hot weather, has been resumed, and it is earnestly hoped that every young man will interest himself to make the Y. M. C. A. success. One of the most novel entertainments of the season, known as the "National Campaign Entertainment," under the management of Prof. R. Kelser was held at the First Baptist church last Monday night. Seldom is there seen so much interest as was manifested in this entertainment what was for the benefit of said church, the contest being for the presidency of the United States, the Woman's Rights against the Republican party. The program was interspersed with solos, duettes, quartettes and choruses, and the large crowd present showed their appreciation by repeated applause. Quite a neat sum was realized from this entertainment. Messrs. Jno. Hayes and Essex Alexander have purchased the store on W. Main street, formerly run by Mr. John L. Harris and are putting in a neat stock goods for the fall. Mr. D. D. Alexander who was engaged in the grocery business here some time ago, but who has been in Washington, has re-opened business on W. Main st., opposite Midway park. Miss Josephine Baker left last week for Philadelphia.

Miss Jennie Baker and Mr. Robert Wood who were married in Philadelphia arrived home last week. Mr. John Thornton who has been quite sick since August is still confined to his room. Mrs. Harriet Bullock, Mrs. Nancy Clayton, Messrs. Cephas Wood, James Kennie, Cephas Cosby, Louis Clayton and Louis Jackson are home from Warm Springs. Mr. William Taylor, porter on the Southern Railroad, is spending his vacation at his home on 6½ street. Rev. Jones Watkins of one of the Baptist churches, Baltimore, Md., is visiting in the city. Mr.

W. F. Brown went to Washington last week to attend the University of Virginia and Carlisle Indian foot-ball game. He reports having had a very pleasant time. Miss Rebecca Ferguson who is teaching at Free Union was in town last Monday. Mr. Charles Mayo from Connecticut was in the city last week the guest of Cornelius Whitlock on N. 4th street. MONTICELLO.

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